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ON THE RACKS

AIRBOY no. 49 Special Issuel

The Air Fighters face their darkest hour as The Airboy Diary concludes with "Misery Triumphant!"

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The city computer, Gaia, is on a killing spree, but could it be doing the right thing? Deunan, Briareos and Hitomi must decide in the finale to Appleseed: Book Two!

ZOT! #27

"Ring In The New"—Part 2! Zot's New 1 Year's Eve party continues! And Zot! fans across the country will find out who "wins" the pie-in-the-face contest!

CLIVE BARKER: TAPPING THE VEIN no. 1 New Series!

Comics' greatest artists—John Bolton, Klaus Janson, Scott Hampton, Denys Cowan, John Totleben, Bo Hampton, Dave McKean, P. Craig Russellillustrate Clive Barker's best stories from The Books of Blood! Clive Barker says, "My nightmares look like this!"

COLD FRONT: There are two windows in the room where i do my typesetting. One looks to the East and the other to the North. I can't look out both windows at once, but by moving my head from side to side i can create a composite mental picture of the sky and the trees beyond the wall.

Right now, in late May, in late afternoon, the composite picture formed by the two views is schizophrenic. The Eastern window shows bright sunlight, dappled green leaves and a blue sky, while the Northern window looks out on darkly wind-tossed trees under a grey sky. There's a cold front moving in, and the dividing line must run right through the computer screen in front of me. I'm sure i could see it if there weren't a wall in the way.

Is this a metaphor? Something about how looking at life through different viewpoints gives you different opinions of what's going on? Naw, it has too long a set-up to be a good metaphor. A good metaphor, especially one in a 570 word editorial, can be put across in exactly one half of a sentence. That one took two paragraphs and hadn't finished with it yet before it grounded out to centerfield.

It's just a weather report, that's all. The fact that the wind has now crossed to toss the leaves of the Eastern outlook while the sun is still shining behind them isn't a metaphor either, although in the right hands it might be.

If the weather isn't a metaphor, maybe we can have a metaphor about the weather. Right now a giant hand is parting the sky over-Brilcreamed hair. I sit upon the parting line, where the gleaming

scalp shows thinly through.

Maybe it should be a metaphor after all. Maybe it is one. But if it is, i don't know what for. That's the thing about life; sometimes there's no point in it at all, it's just a series of weather reports in search of a metaphoric context.

Ah, yes, a meta-metaphor. How darling.

Can we have a meta-metametaphor, huh? Please, huh, with sprinkles and frosting on?

No, not now, dear; we have an editorial to write.

You know, the whole time i've been typing, i've kept looking up to check the views. I've thought some change was sure to come. If you can't use a metaphor, you can always fall back upon an omen.

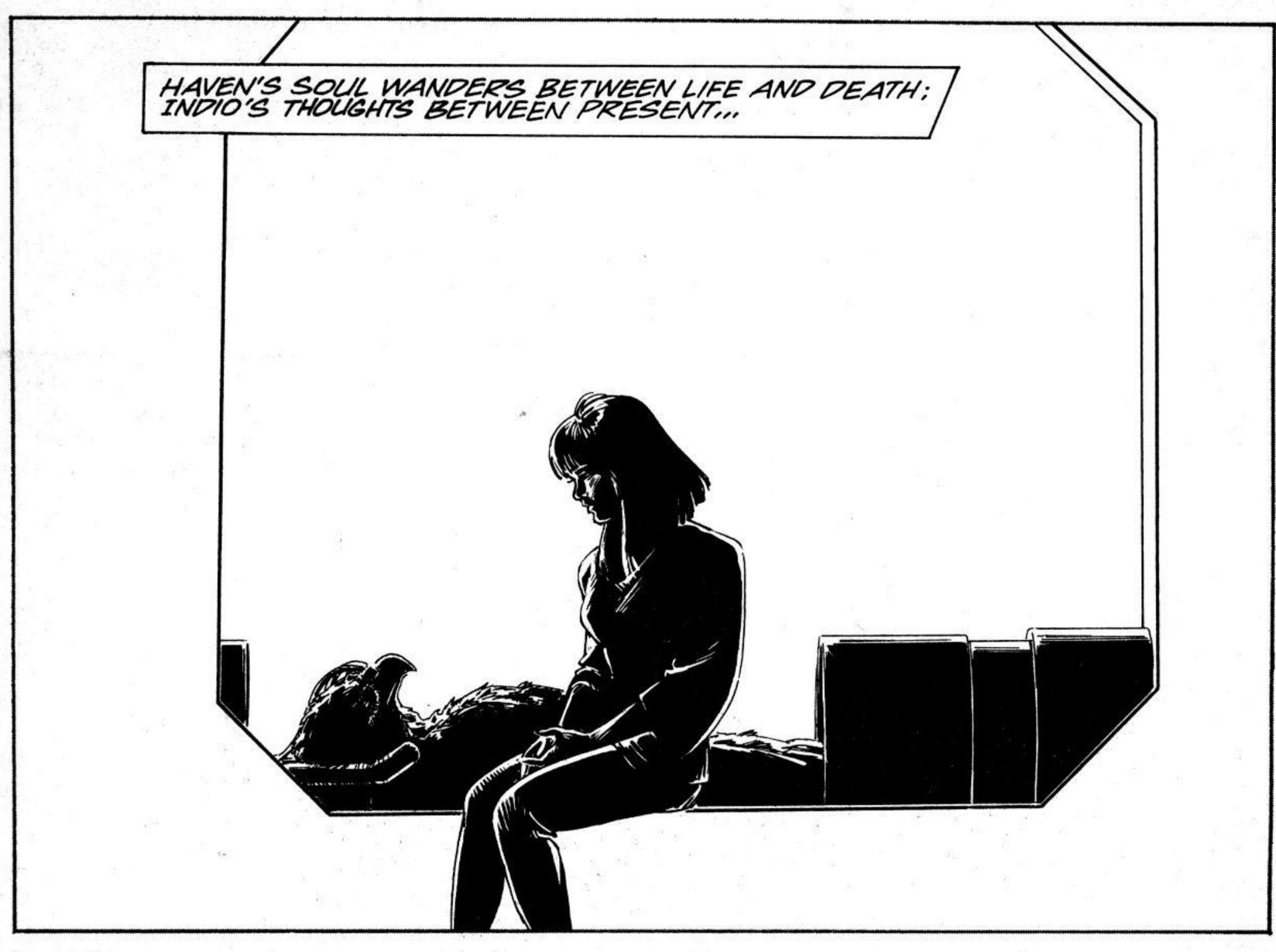
Should the Eastern sky have grown dark and cloudy, it would have influenced the way these words would have turned. Likewise, i was prepared to take a different tack if the North had begun to shine and bluely sparkle.

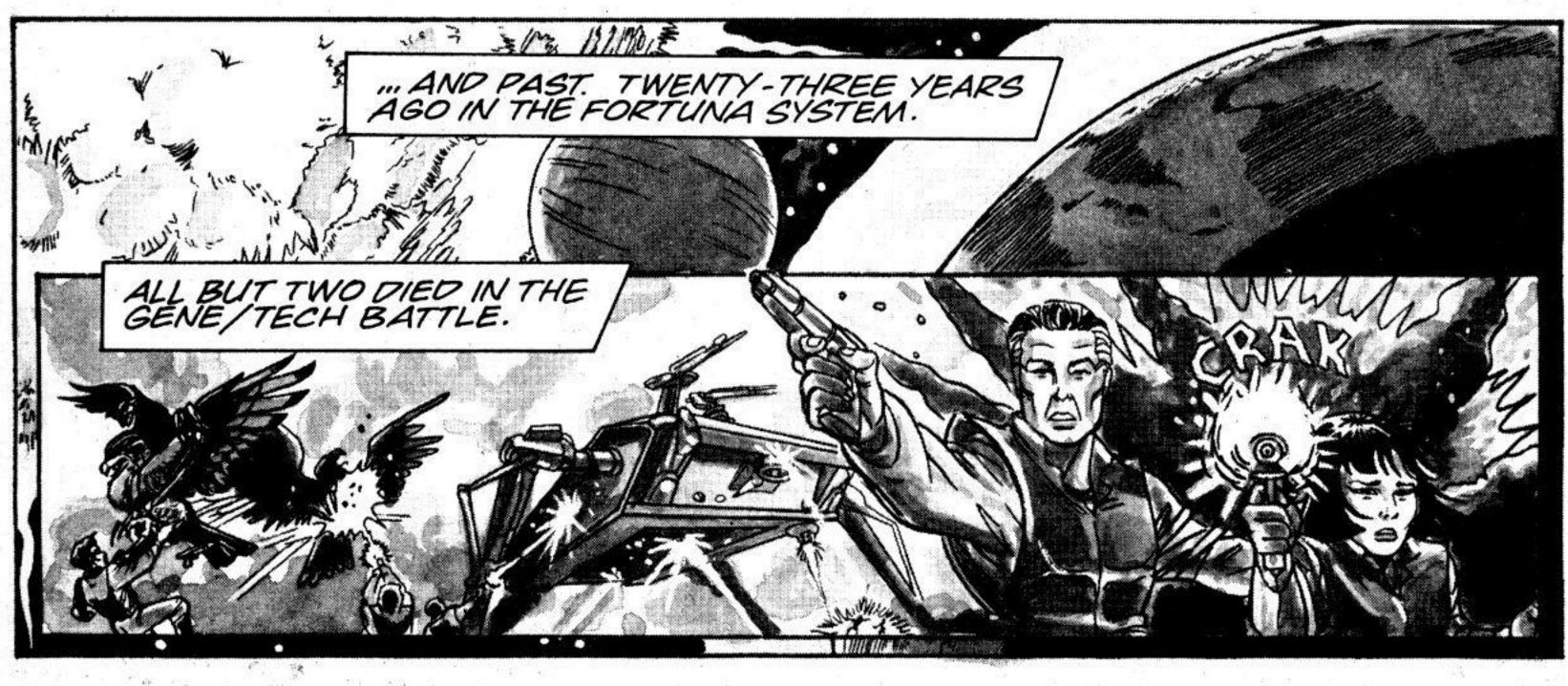
Twice i thought the balance had been broken. The first time i even began to write about it (that was back in paragraph five), but before i had a sentence out, the line of demarcation had returned to its starting point. Now even the windy toss of leaves in the East has gone. All is bright sun and summer there, and to the North, the winter still frowns down.

My space is filled, my metaphors are meaningless, it's just a weather report, and you will never know which side won, the cold air or the warm. Life's like that sometimes, ain't it?

head, running a comb through Catherine Vronwode

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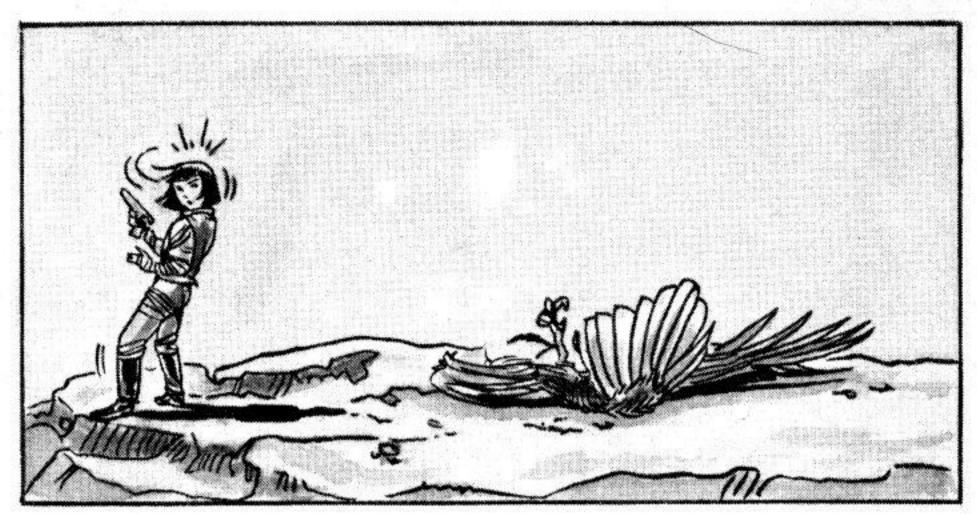








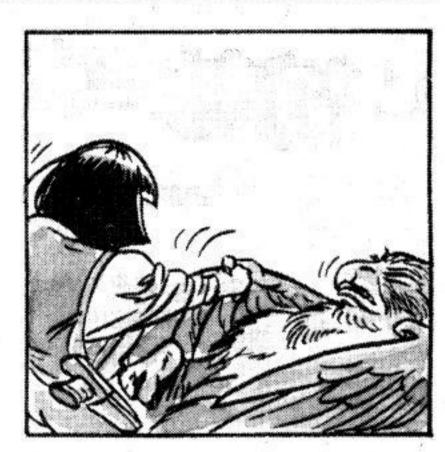




























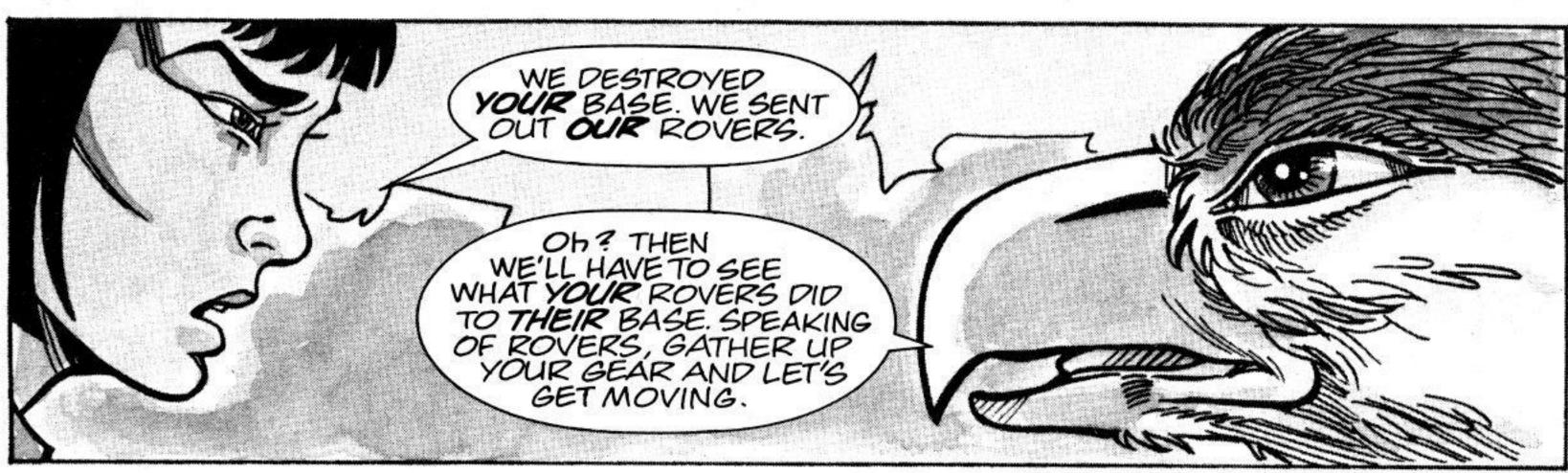








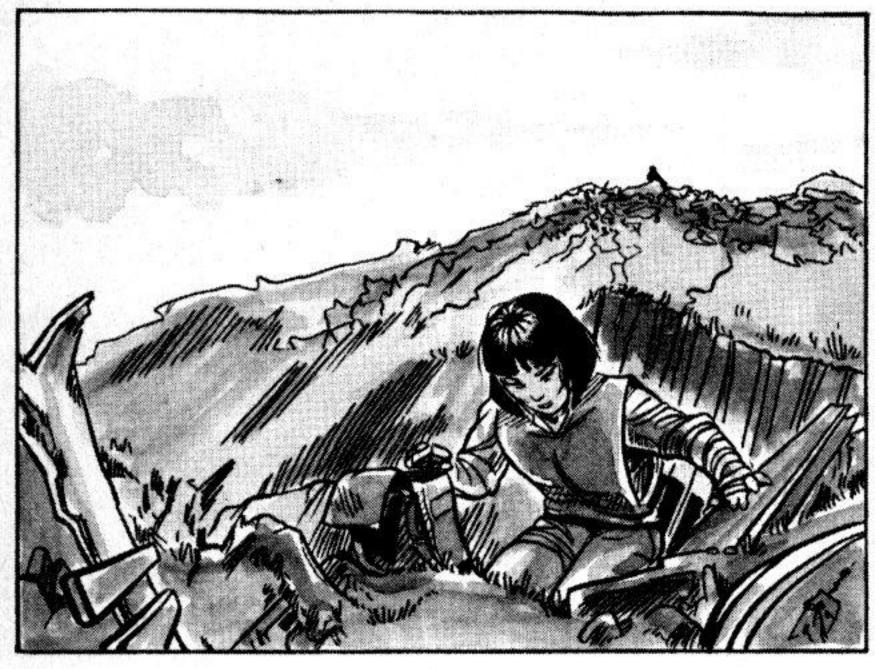












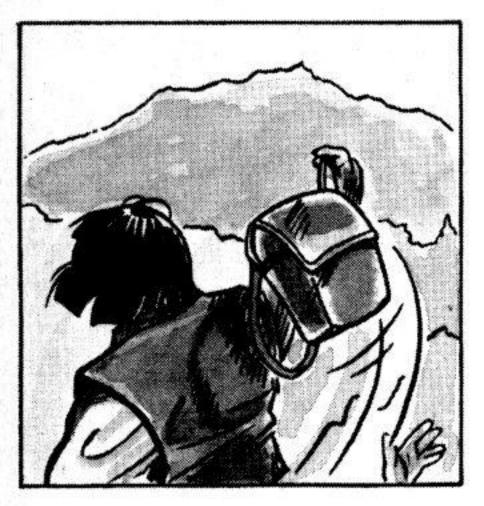








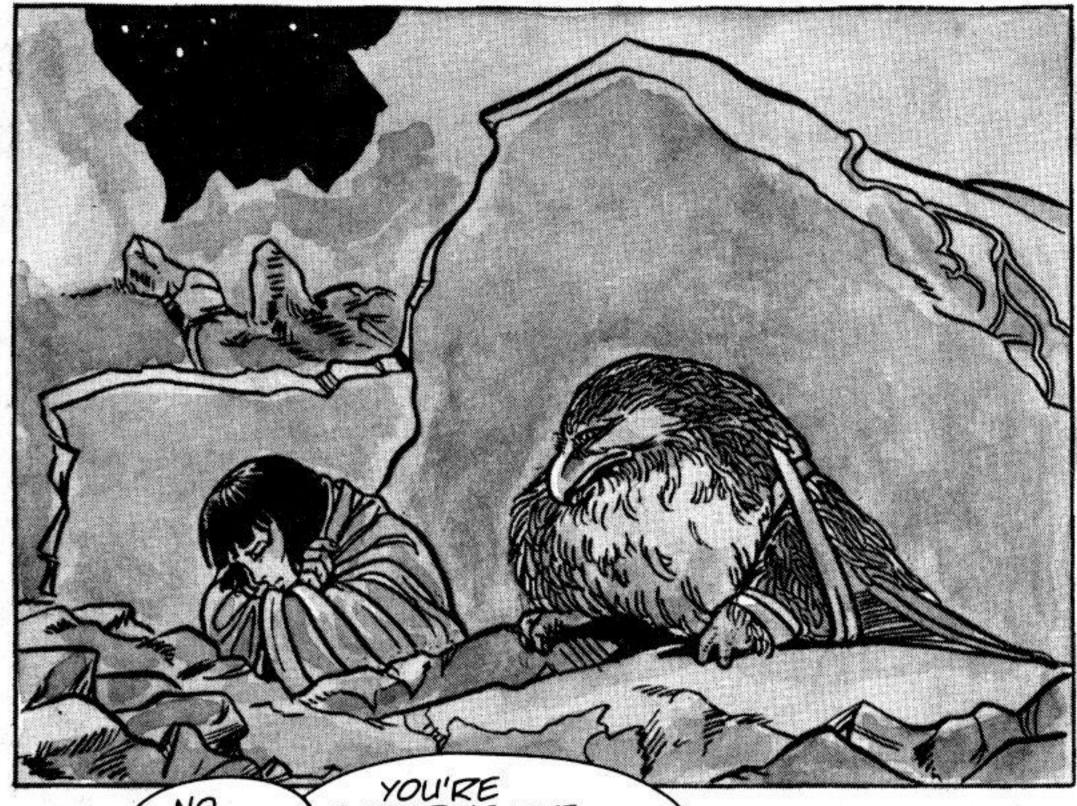




















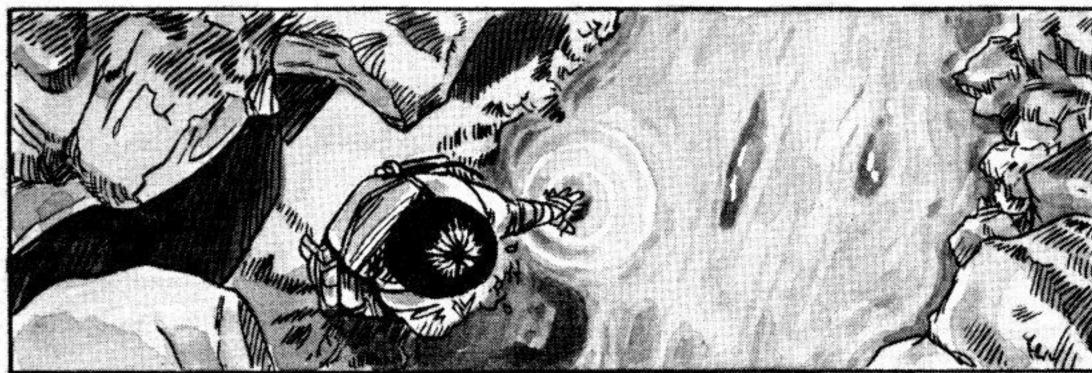


















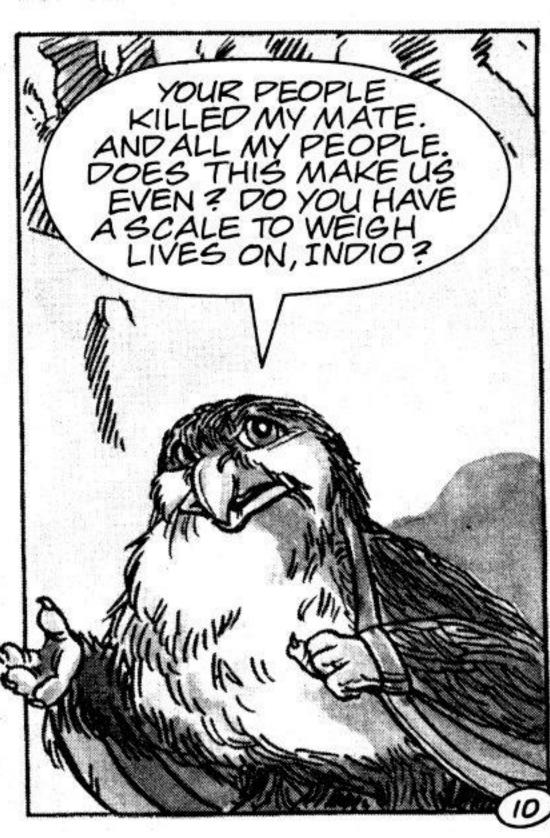




















































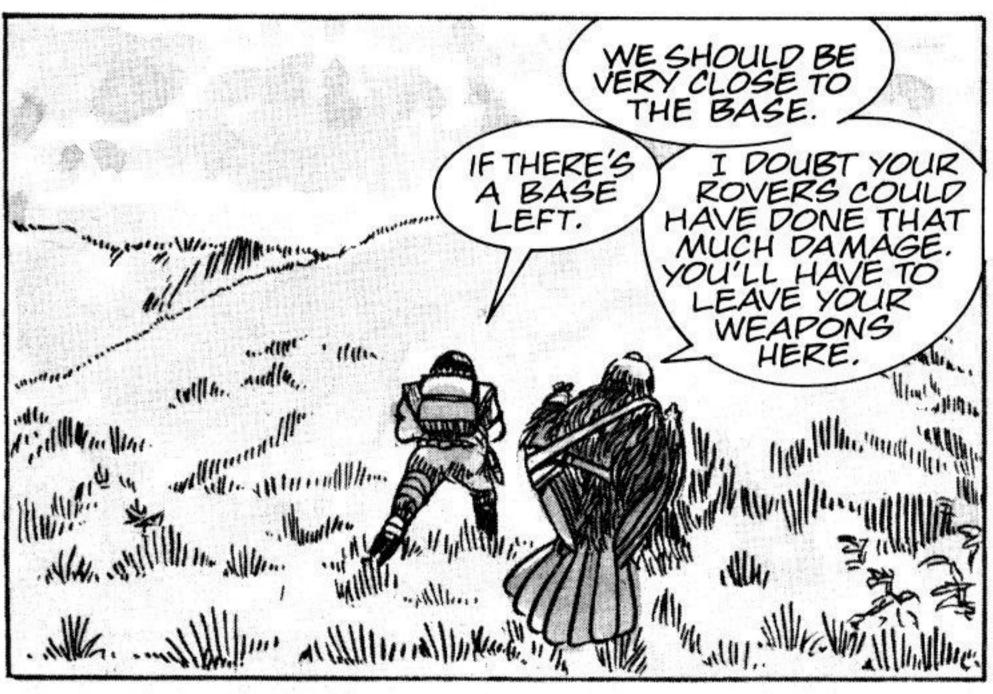












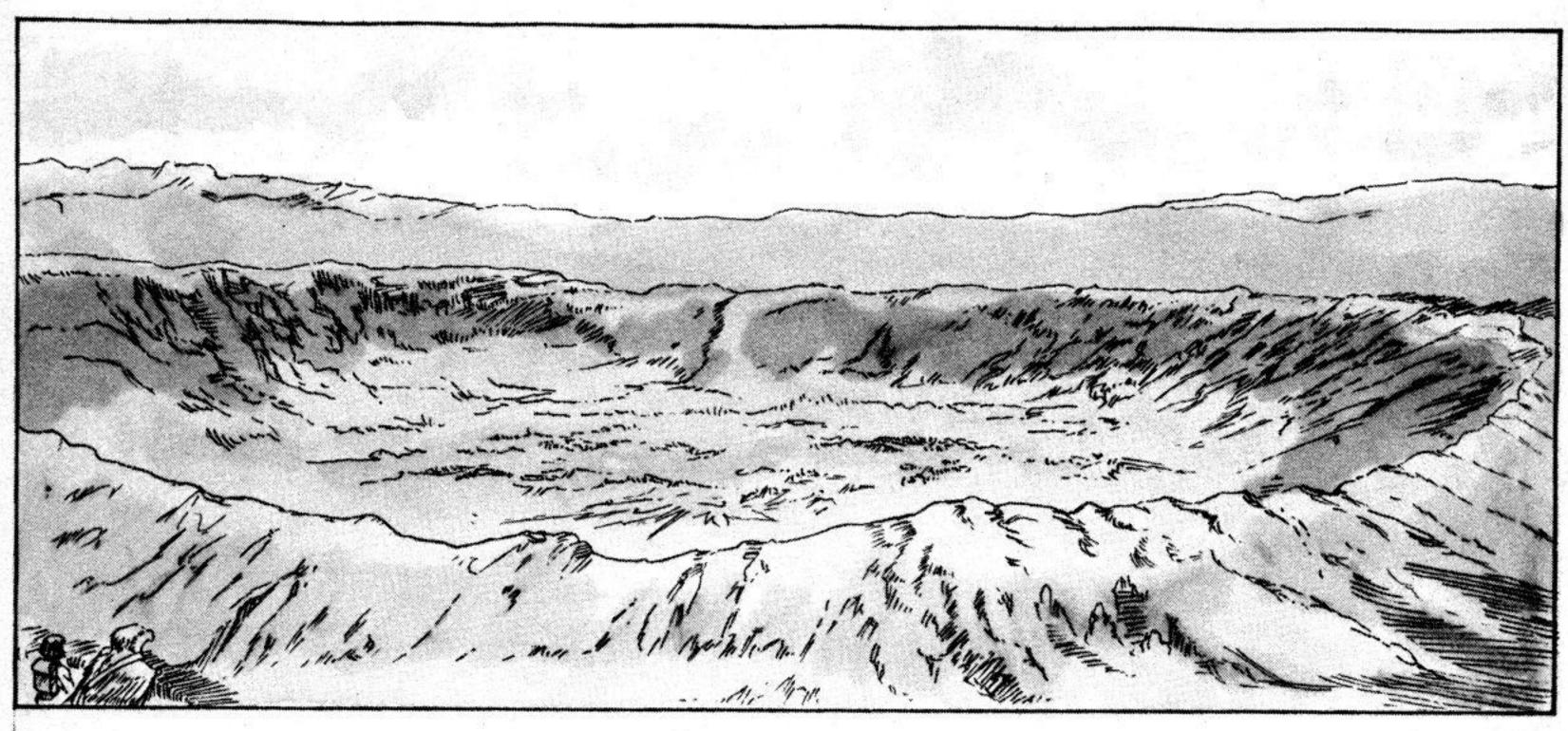




















































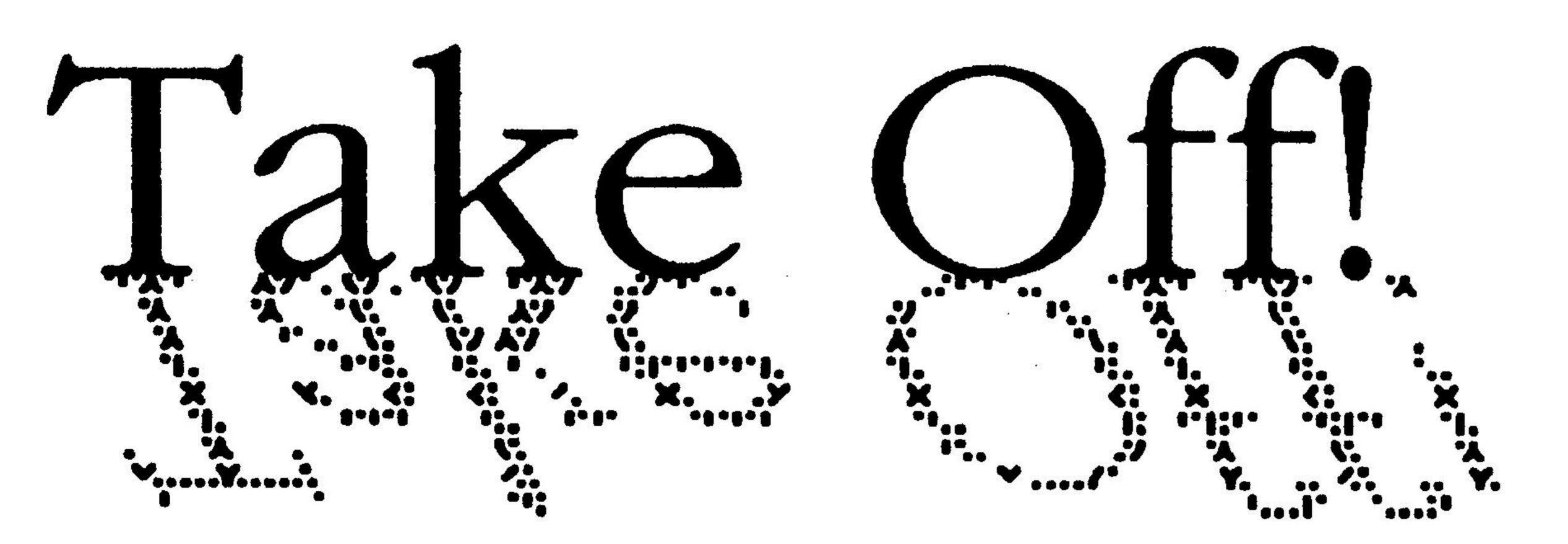
SAVE THE CHEEZES!

Every day thousands of Cheezies are thoughtlessly trampled and eaten by rampaging herds of cattle. To combat this wanton destruction, the special police force known as **THE WEASEL PATROL** puts their lives on the line to save these delicious cheese-flavored snacks from extinction.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

You can help supply vitally needed economic aid to a worthy, though much trivialized, cause. Your purchase of just one copy of the all-new **WEASEL PATROL** comic book will keep the Patrol in the fields for over a week, saving hundreds of innocent Cheezies from untimely consumption. Imagine how many Cheezies could be saved if you bought eight copies! Your support is greatly appreciated.





The Original Desktop FUSION Journal Who said that truth was stranger than fiction? For those

of you who haven't been following the latest scientific breakthrough, on March 24 two researchers at the University of Utah (Earth) announced that they had achieved nuclear fusion with a simple desktop apparatus. They claimed to have gotten four times as much energy out of their device as they put into it. (As of mid-April they now claim to have gotten eight times as much energy out.) This is significantly above the holy grail of fusion, the point of break-even, of getting more energy out than is put in. And the fuel for this fusion is just D2O, heavy water, which isn't radioactive and which is a plentiful component of ordinary seawater!

You can follow the current discussions and discoveries in this very, very new field in the newspapers, in magazines like Science News and Scientific American, and through netnews on the Internet, in newsgroup "alt.fusion." Suddenly, stardrives don't seem as science fictional as they used to. This is an exciting time to live in!

Future History Contest Results...

...have been postponed until next issue, due to the sheer volume of wonderful, imaginative entries received. I want to share as many of them with you as I can, and I only have one page to work with this issue. I hope that you can bear to wait one more issue to read these terrific looks back at our time from the future.

Comments on the Cover to #13

"First, I'm glad that you got a Famous Guy like Rick Sternbach to do your cover. And the cover was very good for what it was, an illustration of the Devastator starship. My problem with the cover is that that's all it was—a picture of a machine. The stories in FUSION have always emphasized characterization over sci-fi hardware, and I believe the cover art should reflect that." — Mark Lungo

"Enjoyed the Sternbach cover. (I love Rick's stuff, have for years.) Rick's a Neat Person, too." —Amy Falkowitz

Comments on Tan's Eyes

"So that's what Tan looks like without his cap? Urg. Give me some genetic distance. I get it now—he drinks to forget...what he looks like. But it sure goes to show that clothes can make the man! Even the most sparing, if used strategically, can work wonders. What the hell is Tan, anyway?" — Todd G. Sutherland

((Tan is a mustiliform, derived from Terran otter stock. If you ever visit the San Francisco Bay Area you should take the time to go down to Monterey to visit the Monterey Aquarium. Their sea otters are something to see. — Gordon))

"Eh? Who's that beady-eyed chap who appeared for a moment where Tan was standing? No, really, I think he looks entirely reasonable without his cap; there's even an odd sense of inevitability to his face. The best art works that way; when you finally see what you've been waiting for, you realize that it couldn't very well look any other way." —Jefferson P. Swycaffer

"This month saw a first. Tan's eyes! Thanks. We were beginning to wonder if the flight helmet was something like Carz's right hand." — Victor Wren

"Now that I've seen what's underneath, I think Tan should keep his hat on." —John Henry Sain

"So that's what Tan looks like without his helmet! I think I like him better with it on because it set him apart from other neo-otters." ——Philip Smith

"Surprise! Tan without his helmet!" —Ken Roskos

Coming in Issue #16

In issue #16 of FUSION, the crew of the Tsunami face the greatest challenge of their careers together: babies. The ship survived the Devastator Affair, but not without sustaining some damage. They have to make a covert planetfall to get the ship fixed. See the Tsunami sneaking around! See swashbuckling repairs! See two little squabs running around the ship, chewing on everything that moves (including Tan)!

FUSION #16 is written by Steve Gallacci with art by Gallacci and Dowling. The fully-painted cover is by Steve Gallacci.

Plus, our readers give us insights into the past from the future, with the results of the "Future History Contest."

Also, brace yourselves for another wacky retreat into the ridiculous world of the region's favorite enforcers of law, disorder and running-away: "The Weasel Patrol" by Ken Macklin and Lela Dowling.

A Public Service Discussion

Since 'Mehooks metabolize alcohol as we metabolize sugar' (FUSION #7, p. 15), Tan's ubiquitous bheer would have been fine to revive Beo—but not for a buman diabetic. And you cannot revive an unconscious diabetic by waving a candy bar under his/her nose.

While we've got everyone's attention, why don't we list the symptoms of diabetes, kind of as a public service. Remember, if you have any of these symptoms, you should go see your doctor.

- Increased thirst with excessive urination
- Increased appetite with loss of weight
- Itching skin
- Slow-healing sores or cuts
- Easy tiring or drowsiness
- Reduced or blurry vision -John Henry Sain

Thanks, John, for this important touch of reality.

Thanks for Writing...
...Noel Tominack. Thanks for the record (Turning) Japanese by the Vapors); it's always been one of my favorites! Have you ever seen the lounge-lizard version done by Rick Moranis on SCTV? It's a boot.

...Philip M. Cohen, who commented that "being the cause of the deaths of billions of people, even inadvertently, would put a permanent cloud over my life." Of course; we'll have to see what delayed stresses it may put on various crew-members in the future.

... Victor Wren, who addressed his letter to "Gordon, cat, Lex, or whoever reads these!" Actually, Cat reads the originals, after which they are copied, with the copies sent to Lex and Letitia, and the originals sent on to me. So, you actually addressed the letter correctly!

... Claude L. Medearis, for sending us the entry on Mehooks from his Xeno-Bio textbook.

... and to B.J. Johnson, Medea, Jim and Dena Price, Paul Shuman, and Jed Martinez, for their letters.

Oops, this is the end of the letter column, and I still have four lines left. I know I shouldn't let them go to waste, but then again, I can't think of what to say. >Sigh<

That's another deadline killed! Until next issue, keep fusing! Gordon Garb, Desktop Production Manager

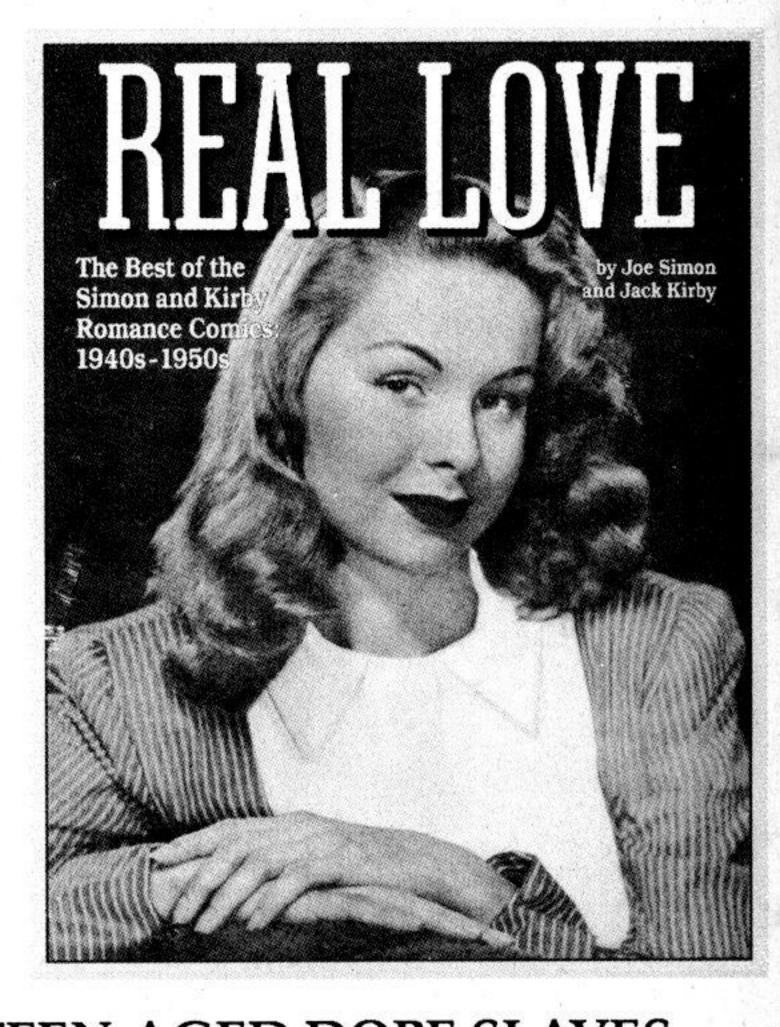


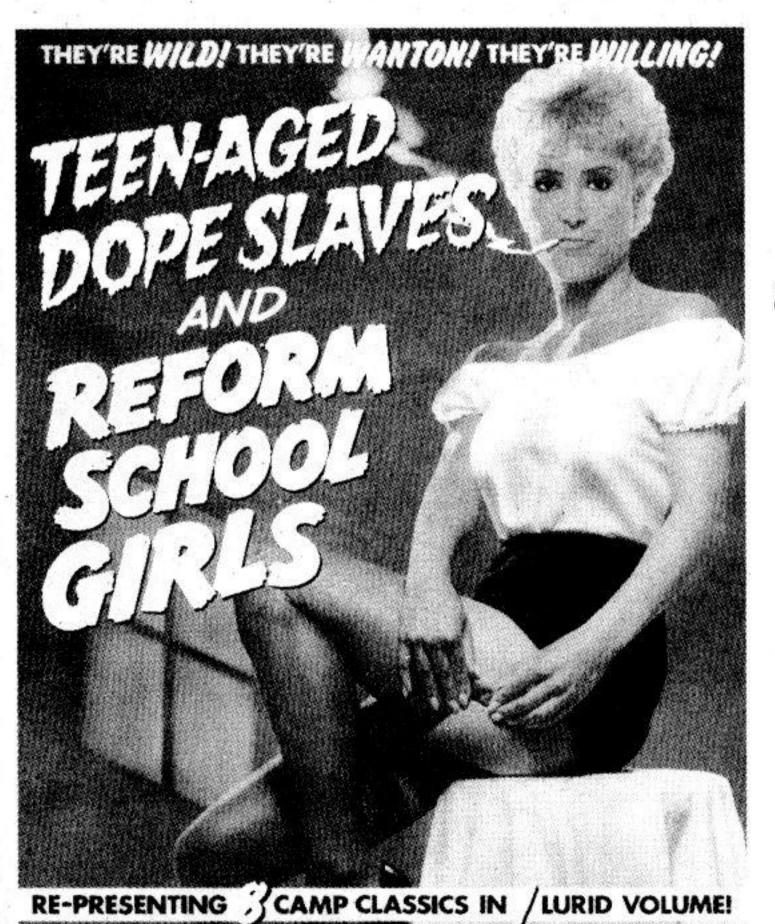
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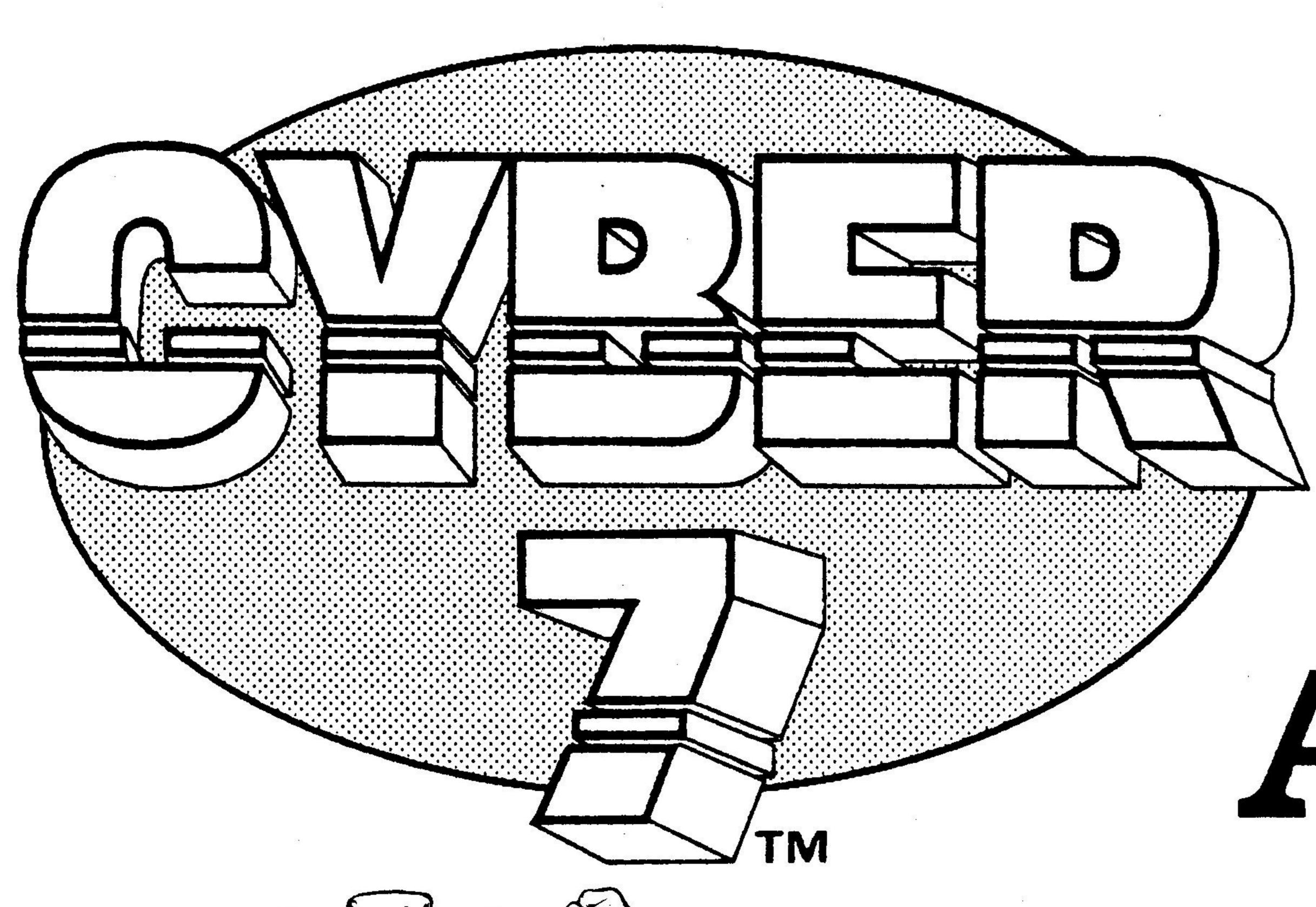
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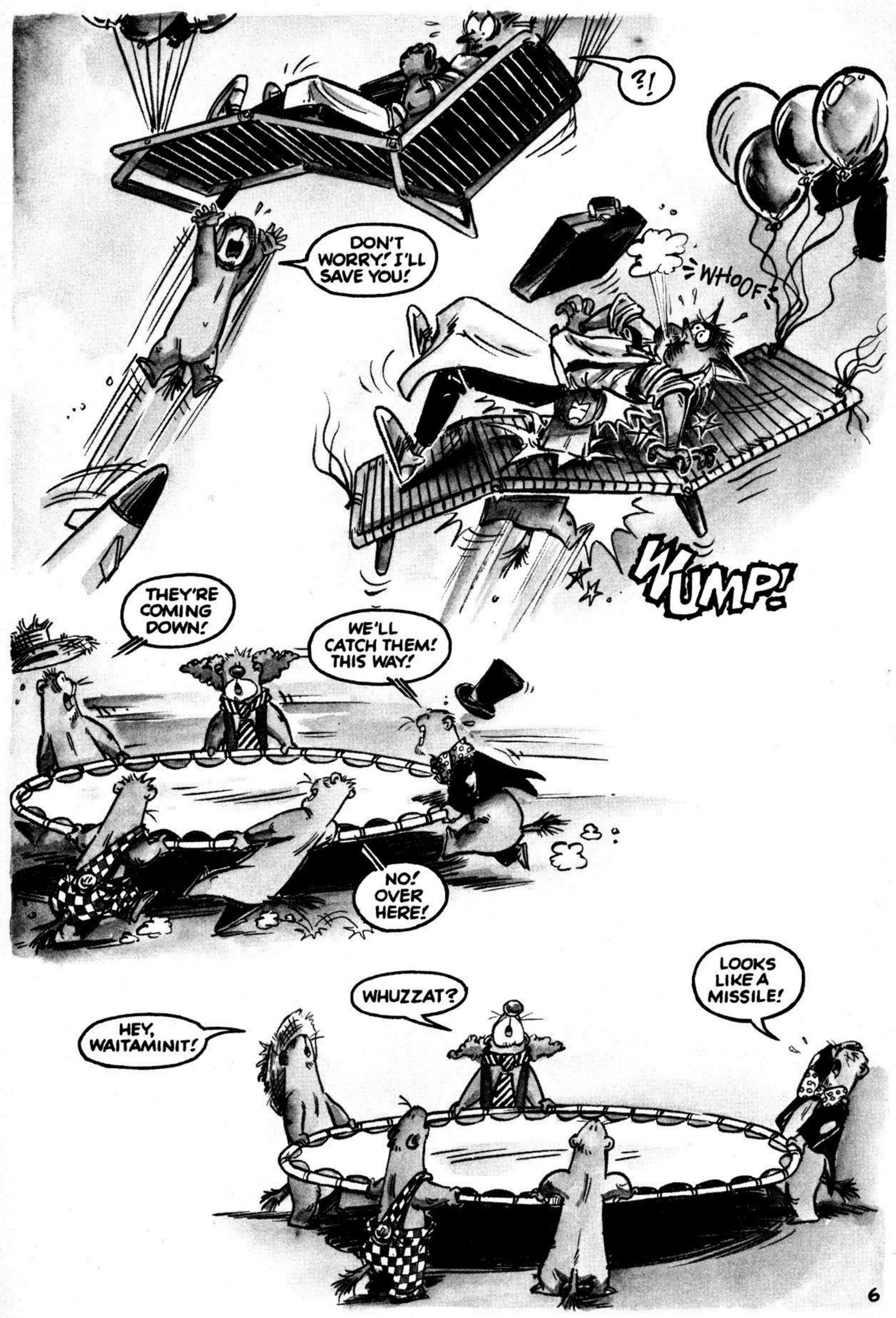


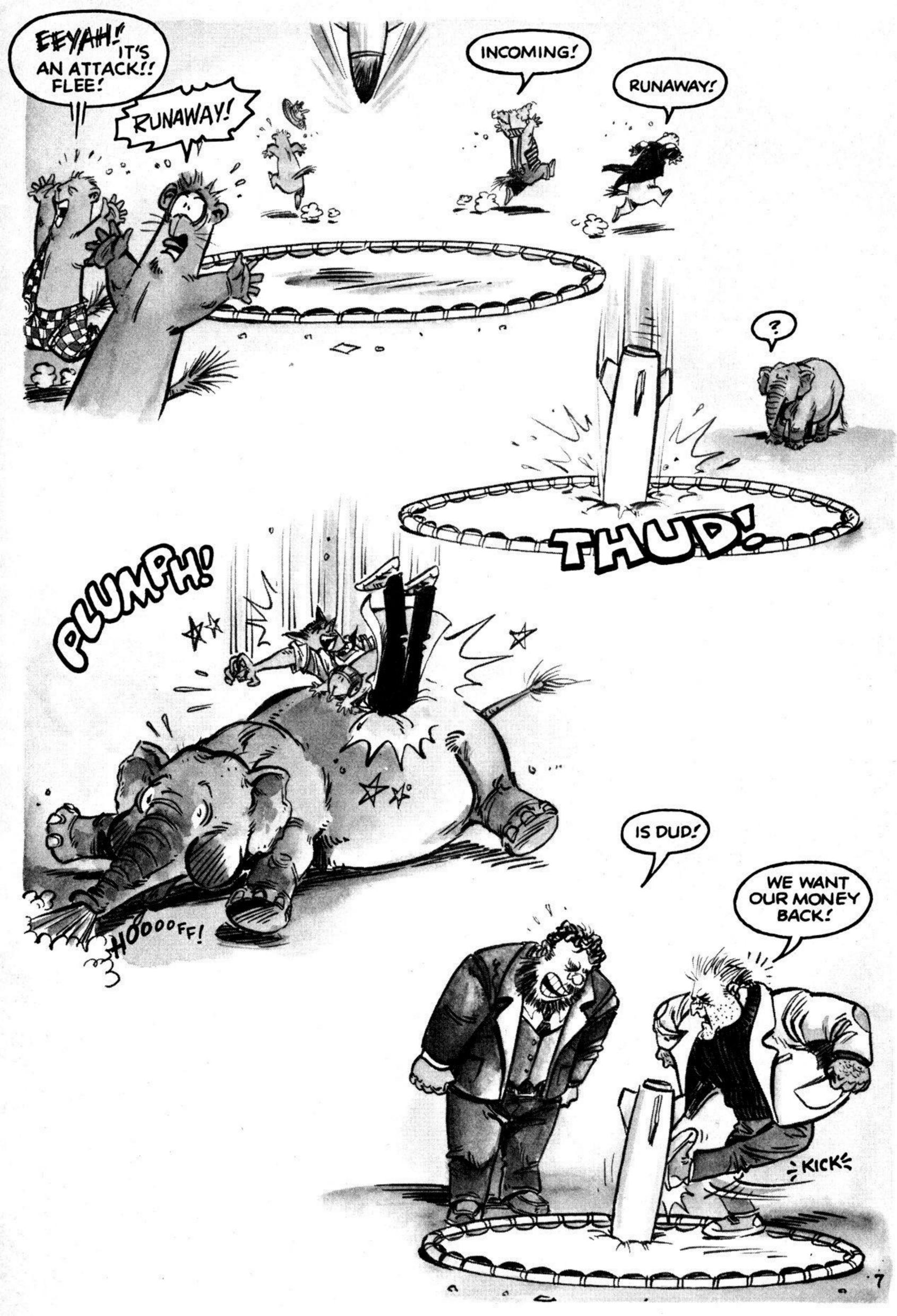














Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1988

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